

MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY
MAY 4, 2015
IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN LEONARD WIGGINS AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman, Mr. Jonathan Felton, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mr. William Wooten, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Mrs. Viola Harris and Mrs. Evelyn Powell.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Lorenzo Carmon, County Manager, Mr. Mahlon DeLoatch, County Attorney and Ms. Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board.

2. PRAYER:
Provided by Rev. Hines.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:
Rev. Hines moved to approve the April 6, 2015 and April 20, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS:
(1) Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments or questions relative to the proposed amendments to Article XII, Section 12-2 "Flood Hazard District Overlay Requirements" of the Edgecombe County Unified Development Ordinance and recent changes to the Flood Insurance Rate Map.

Mr. DeLoatch read the public notice as published.

Mr. Carmon stated that in order for property owners of Edgecombe County to be able to participate in the national flood insurance program it is necessary for the County Board to review maps and ordinance to make sure we are in compliance with the flood hazard rules and regulations. He stated that staff, with the assistance from the State, has reviewed the information and recommend that the ordinance be approved as presented.

Mr. Wiggins called for public hearing comments. There being none the public hearing was adjourned.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance as submitted. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

(2) Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments or questions relative to the CDBG Scattered Site Housing Grant – Grant Closeout.

Mr. DeLoatch read the public notice as published.

Mr. Carmon stated that Edgecombe County received a CDBG-Scattered Site Housing Rehab Grant from the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community

Assistance in their 2012 funding cycle. This grant was used to assist two low-income families with housing replacement. Of the \$225,000 received, \$5,181.70 remain, which will be deobligated. He stated that the grant has been completed, and therefore it is time to take steps to close it out per the grant guidelines. Part of this is holding a close-out public hearing, where citizens are welcome to ask questions or make comments related to the project. Mr. Carmon stated that after the public hearing, it is recommended that the Board of Commissioners adopt the closeout resolution and authorize the Chairman to execute the related documents.

Mr. Wiggins called for public hearing comments. There being none the public hearing was adjourned.

Rev. Hines moved to adopt the closeout resolution as presented and to authorize the Chairman to execute the related documents.

5. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW.

MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO RECESS THE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AND CONVENE AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW. MRS. HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

A. Mr. Wiggins called the meeting to order.

B. Scheduled Appointments.

1. William D. Vick, III was not present.

Mr. Carmon stated that Mr. Vick made an informal appeal dated February 19, 2015 requesting his property value to be adjusted from \$86,067.00 to \$50,000 due to damages from Hurricane Irene, a busted pipe and that his HVAC has not been operational since 2010. The taxpayer did submit a copy of an appraisal that was completed March 29, 2012 valuing his property at \$50,000. An adjustment was made decreasing his property value to \$70,642.00 after a site visit. The taxpayer was not satisfied with this adjustment and made an application for a hearing before the Board of Equalization and Review dated April 3, 2015 requesting his value be decreased to \$50,000. An internal site visit was made by staff on April 22, 2015. It was determined that the taxpayer is trying to repair and/or remodel this property.

Staff is recommending to the Board to make an additional adjustment of 10% due to temporary depreciation reducing the value to \$62,617.00.

After a brief discussion Mr. Wooten made a motion to accept staff recommendation to make an additional adjustment of 10%. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Gloria Lyndaker, Tax Administrator, stated that she received another appeal on today's date which will have to be heard at the next regular meeting.

REV. HINES MOVED TO RECESS AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW AND RECONVENE THE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING. MRS. HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

6. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

There were no public petitions.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Approval of budget amendments.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. Approval of a resolution and bid for PNC bank to finance 2006 School Bonds.

Mr. Carmon recommended approval of a resolution for the application to the Local Government Commission to approve the refinancing of the 2006 School Bonds with an estimated savings of approximately \$300,000.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the resolution as submitted. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of a Purchase and Sale Agreement for Renewable Energy Credits with NC GreenPower Corporation.

Mr. Carmon stated that the Edgecombe County Landfill Gas Project renders Renewable Energy Credits (REC's) since it creates electricity from a qualifying renewable energy source. Those credits have value as determined by the market. He stated that in recent years, the value of those credits dropped considerably relative to our expectation. Therefore, we have been pooling those credits until such time as those prices would rebound. Mr. Carmon stated that recently we were approached by the NC GreenPower Corporation, a non-profit broker for REC's, has made an offer to purchase at \$2 per credit, which is considerably higher than the market rate in the last two years. He recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement and authorize the Chairman to execute the same.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement as presented and authorize the Chairman to execute the same. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion.

D. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Edgecombe County and Edgecombe Community College.

Mr. Carmon stated that a request was received from Edgecombe Community College to enter into a partnership with the County that would allow the Basic Law Enforcement Training program participants to use the parking lots on North Main Street for driver training. He recommended approval of the request.

Mrs. Harris made a motion to approve the request as submitted and to authorize the Chairman to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the College. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Request from American Legion Post 19 regarding acquiring County owned property.

Mr. Carmon stated that a request was received from American Legion Post 19 requesting the County's assistance in acquiring either the former WIC/Health Department offices or the former Home Health and Hospice offices to house their operations. Mr. Carmon recommended that the Board not take any action on this request at this time. He stated that the County is in the process of sub-dividing this property and plans to market and sell the properties soon.

Mr. Wiggins recommended that staff look at other County owned property as possibilities.

F. Approval of the Debris Management Plan.

Mr. Carmon presented a copy of a letter from the North Carolina department of Public Safety notifying the County that FEMA has approved the Edgecombe County Debris Management Plan. He stated that the plan will be used following any type of disaster that calls for debris removal and recommended approval.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the plan as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

G. Request for financial support from Highway 17 Association.

Mr. Carmon stated that the County received a request from the Highway 17 Association to support the interstate advocacy effort to upgrade US 64 and US 17. The request is for \$8,550 to fund the cost of lobbying the North Carolina Board of Transportation, North Carolina Department of Transportation and the North Carolina General Assembly. Mr. Carmon stated that the funding request is based on 10 cents per person plus \$2.00 per lane mile. He recommended that the Board not take any action at this time regarding this request.

H. Proclaiming May 2015 as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the proclamation proclaiming May 2015 as Mental Health Awareness Month. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

I. Approval of a Resolution in Favor of Closing the Medicaid Coverage Gap.

Mr. Carmon started that the Twin County League of Women Voters created a resolution for the Board's consideration urging the North Carolina General Assembly and the Governor to accept Federal funds to expand Medicaid coverage in North Carolina. He stated that representatives from the League of Women Voters were expected to be present to speak on this issue and recommended approve of the resolution.

Mrs. Harris moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wiggins called upon the League of Women Voters to come forth to speak on this issue.

Dr. Margaret Sourwind came forward and provided background on this issue, stating that there is now a gap with no available health coverage for over 500,000 North Carolinians who do not qualify for Medicaid but earn too little to qualify for subsidized health insurance. Federal funds are available to provide coverage to these North Carolinians; and

- that accepting the designated federal funds now would make health coverage available to more than 1,914 people in Edgecombe County by the end of 2016
- due to North Carolina declining to accept these funds, in 2014 and 2015 Edgecombe County alone has already missed an opportunity to generate over 79 new jobs, \$8.7 million in new business activity and \$56.2 thousand in new county tax revenue
- between 2016 and 2020, accepting these funds would stimulate an additional \$36.2 million in Edgecombe County economic growth, \$57.2 million in business activity,

and \$410,500 in additional county tax revenues, and save \$15.2 million in uncompensated hospital care

- using statewide data, the same study estimates that by accepting these funds coverage would be extended to hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians, and between 2016 and 2020 would bring in \$21 billion in federal funds and increase North Carolina state tax revenue by \$862 million
- For every \$1 that a state spends to extend coverage to these lowest income people, \$13.41 in Federal funds flow into the state
- Medicaid coverage improves health outcomes, reduces mortality, and protects patients from catastrophic medical bills
- private insurance premiums will be lower in states that accept the funds to extend health coverage to their lowest income people and higher in states like North Carolina that do not

J. Approval of a Resolution to Oppose the Proposed County Line Realignment of the School Systems.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mrs. Harris to read the resolution.

Mrs. Harris read the resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE PROPOSED
COUNTY LINE REALIGNMENT OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, in 1992 the North Carolina General Assembly thought it to be in the best interest of providing a quality education to all students by merging the Nash County and Rocky Mount School systems with the passage of SL 1991-391; and

WHEREAS, the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners has adhered to that legislative act by annually appropriating local current expense funds and capital outlay funds as per SL 1991-391; and

WHEREAS, the Nash County Board of Commissioners has taken action to pursue the realignment of the school systems to the county line, by a vote of 4 to 3 in favor; and

WHEREAS, the governing boards of the Nash-Rocky Mount School System, Edgecombe County Public Schools and the City of Rocky Mount all have voted against the proposed realignment; and

WHEREAS, the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners believe the realignment would not be in the best interest of students and that it will be counter-productive to our efforts to create cohesiveness in the Twin Counties region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners adopt this resolution officially and publicly declaring our opposition to the proposed realignment of the Edgecombe and Nash-Rocky Mount School Systems.

Adopted this the 4th day of May, 2015.

Leonard Wiggins, Chairman

ATTEST:

Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board

Mr. Felton moved to approve the Resolution to Oppose the Proposed County Line Realignment of the School Systems. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wiggins mentioned the recent newspaper articles regarding Edgecombe County Commissioners not responding to the request for a meeting with the Nash County Board of Commissioners to discuss this proposed county line merger. He stated that the concern was at that time that the Nash County Commissioners had taken no formal action so we really had nothing to meet about. The Nash Rocky Mount Schools is a consolidation of the Rocky Mount and Nash County Schools. Mr. Wiggins stated that in his lifetime no students living in the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount ever attended the Edgecombe County Schools so what they are requesting is to create a new district. A county line merger would be a new school district. Mr. Wiggins stated that part of his objection was that this was a consolidation of Rocky Mount and Nash County. Rocky Mount had not been contacted as it relates to their school district. He stated that the 1992 consolidation was to keep the city whole, as it should remain. Dividing the school system along county lines is about race and power, not what is best for the students in either County. The recent bill that would prevent Nash Rocky Mount Schools from suing the County Commissioners was about power. If you take the ability of the schools system to sue county commissioners from them they have no leverage. That means that the commissioners control who they fire and who they hire. The only leverage the school board has is the ability to hire and fire with county commissioners' approval. You need no Board of Education is you give county commissioners all the power. The County line merger is about race. It changes the composition of the school board, so that the power will be in the county commissioners' hands. It has also been stated that Nash County will not pursue this legislation if Rocky Mount discontinued the GAP funding they provide. The GAP funding is the difference in the per pupil expenditure that Rocky Mount decided in the 1992 legislation that they would pay to their school system for their children. Mr. Wiggins questions how a Red Oak Commissioner tells the Rocky Mount City Council to stop the funding district that is a result of consolidation of the Rocky Mount School system. Mr. Wiggins stated that he has been a citizen of Rocky Mount all of his life. He further stated that Edgecombe County participates, along with Nash County and Rocky Mount in supporting the Braswell Library, Carolinas Gateway Partnership, the Rocky Mount/Wilson Airport and the Twin County Visioning Project and Edgecombe County always steps forward when called upon for regional support. Nash County's proposal had a four/three vote, which means that there is support on their Board to not vote for the county line merger. Edgecombe County board of Commissioners is unanimously opposed to the proposal. The Rocky Mount Mayor has also asked for a joint meeting with Edgecombe County, Rocky Mount City Council and Nash County Board of Commissioners. We have asked our staff to assist in coordinating this because we certainly have a willingness to meet. Mr. Wiggins further stated that the reason we did not meet before is because he was called by a Commissioner that was not the Chairman, and at that time they had not taken a vote on this issue, after consulting with his board members, we decided not to meet at that time. Mr. Wiggins questioned why a commissioner would suggest that Rocky Mount is a jurisdiction of its own and the funding for the GAP money is coming from that entity. Their reason for requesting county lines is Rocky Mount should not pay what the commitment was to resolve the issue at that time so that it would not divide the city along county line and racial lines. These are my comments. Mr. Wiggins called for any other comments from other commissioners.

Rev. Hines stated that if the City of Rocky Mount has not objected to pay the difference he is

not ready to meet with Nash County. He further stated "Why do we need to meet with them if they are not concerned about the total student body for the city of Rocky Mount? Students should not have to suffer."

Mr. Wiggins stated that we need to meet to resolve and discuss issues.

Mr. Felton stated that we should not meet with them. It is their issue. If we meet with them we are getting into their ballpark.

Mr. Wiggins stated the local communities need to show that they have a willingness to meet.

Mrs. Harris stated, "I think we should meet. Everyone should be at the table. We know what we feel. The General Assembly should know that we made every effort to come to a consensus and that we did not sit back and wait."

Mr. Felton stated that we are telling them now that we do not agree with anything that they have proposed. We do agree with the 1992 legislation; if we meet with them we are acknowledging that there may be something about the 1992 law that can be changed.

Mr. Wooten stated, "I think that we should meet. Whenever there is an issue such as this and there are three parties participating, Edgecombe County, City of Rocky Mount, and Nash County, we need to meet and hear what is going on. We need to defend our point if we feel that we have had equitable proportion funding and have met all the mandates of law. We need to be at the table. We do not need to let someone else dictate the conversation in the general assembly."

Mrs. Powell agreed that we should meet.

Mr. Boswell stated that we should meet with any entity irregardless of our position because we are elected officials representing the County. Our position has not changed in the beginning and will not change in the end.

8. PLANNING BOARD REPORT. *Received*****

Ms. Cynthia Jenkins, Planning Director presented the Planning Board report and introduced her staff, Debbie Vick, Planner I, Katina Braswell, Planner and Shakema Barnes, Administrative Assistant.

Regular Meeting

A. Action Items:

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Flood Plain Ordinance discussion.

B. Other Business

1. Planning Board members attendance.
2. SES amendments.

C. Draft Minutes.

D. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2015.

Special Called Meeting April 27, 2015

A. Scheduled Appointment.

1. Adoption of Edgecombe County floodplain ordinance.

9. APPOINTMENTS.

A. Human Services Board.

Mrs. Harris moved to appoint Dr. William Leland. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. Arts Council.

Mr. Felton moved to appoint Carol Wooten and Tabatha Powell and reappoint Rose Sherrod Jones. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Edgecombe County Planning Board.

Mr. Harris moved to appoint Billy Boddie. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

10. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the contracts as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

11. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the afterlists and releases as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

12. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW.***Received***

- A. Water Services.
- B. Veterans Service.
- C. Pre-Trial Release Program.

13. MANAGER'S REPORT.***Received***

- A. Economic/Workforce Indicators.
- B. Letter from NCACC re: Return of surplus funds to Counties.
- C. Letter from Roman Leary, Director of Edgecombe County Memorial Library regarding future needs of the library.
- D. Financial Summary Report.

14. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

15. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

Mr. Carmon read the following 2015-2016 Budget Message:

Submitted herein is the Edgecombe County recommended Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016. The Budget is balanced in its entirety, as required by the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

The County's proposed General Fund budget for FY 15-16 totals \$59,188,021 which is a 2.3% increase from last year's original operating budget of \$57,847,154. The proposed ad valorem tax rate for the FY 15-16 is 94 cents per \$100 value which is a 4.5 cent increase from prior year. One cent generates approximately \$286,693. The proposed budget includes a fund balance appropriation of \$5,254,429 of that amount \$351,775 is from restricted fund balance for school debt service and \$650,000 from restricted fund balance for revaluation costs leaving a \$4,252,654 appropriation from general fund.

General Fund Operational Highlights

All outside agencies are recommended to remain the same as in the prior year with the exception of the schools & community college, both receiving approximately \$300,000 additional each.

- *Employee Health Insurance increased 15% at the cost of approximately \$500,000.*

- *Health Department Revenues have declined due to a decrease in client census and the elimination of the Home Health & Hospice program.*
- *Additional \$200,000 for mandated election costs.*
- *A decline in inmate housing census and revenue due to additional availability of other jails throughout the state.*

Personnel

This budget includes a 5% COLA for all county employees including the part-time convenience site workers. Only 2 new positions are proposed in the Water & Sewer department. This current fiscal year we have managed to eliminate positions.

Health Insurance

The overall cost of employee health insurance increased by approximately 15% and will be passed along for spouse & family coverage. We are proposing to continue the deposit of \$150 in a health care reimbursement account for all employees. We will continue to participate in the Health risk assessment program for all individuals covered by our health insurance in an effort to reduce our health care costs. Individuals who choose not to participate in the assessment will pay \$50 per month towards the cost of their insurance.

Capital Outlay

This budget includes minimal capital outlay expenditures for minor facility renovations. Funding for Sheriff vehicles has been eliminated and will be revisited at a later date.

Solid Waste

The proposed tipping fee for Solid Waste is \$48.50 for Municipal Solid Waste & \$41.00 for C&D which is the same as in the prior year.

Water & Sewer

This budget includes a 10% increase in water and sewer rates to cover the cost of operation & maintenance of the system. The average bill for customers using 4,000 gallons per month is \$48.00 and the average sewer bill for the same will remain the same at \$57.00. We have approximately 5,500 water customers and 900 sewer customers.

Conclusion

With the expectation of another breakeven year in the current year and the additional needs in next year's budget for the school system, community college, cost of living and cost of elections, the 4.5 cent increase is recommended to cover costs and it appropriates our fund balance down to approximately 5% and raises concern for the cash flow during the fiscal year. We must continue to remain vigilant in our effort to reduce our overall operating expenses by eliminating and consolidating positions whenever possible while having minimal impact on customer service.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to meet on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. for a budget work session.

16. CLOSED SESSION.

Rev. Hines moved to enter into closed session to discuss economic development and a personnel matter. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

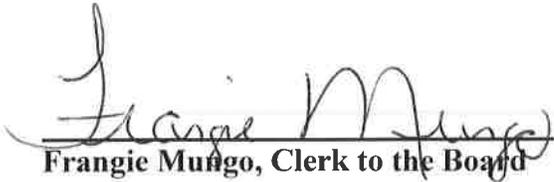
Mrs. Powell moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Felton moved to accept the retirement of Mr. Carmon effective September 30, 2015. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Staff was asked to plan for the retirement celebration for Mr. Carmon.

Mr. Felton moved to hire Mr. Eric Evans as County Manager effective October 1, 2015 with the contract regarding outside employment to be amended to state "otherwise agreed upon by the Board of Commissioners". Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

17. MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO RECESS THE MEETING UNTIL TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015 AT 9:00 A.M. IN ROOM 260 OF THE EDGEcombe COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING FOR A BUDGET WORK SESSION. MRS. POWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.


Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board